

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3 and Fig. 6, wherein the lead line and reference numeral 55 was added to Fig. 3 and the lead line and reference numeral 31 was added to Fig. 6.

Annotated sheets showing the changes are also attached for the Examiner's ease of reference.

REMARKS

The objections to the drawings, disclosure and claims have been addressed by appropriate changes thereto.

Likewise, reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 is respectfully requested in light of the amendments to Claims 1, 9 and 11.

The rejections of Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 13-17, 21, 22 and 25 as being anticipated by Okui et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of Claims 6-8 and 18-20 as being unpatentable over Okui et al., in view of Kameda et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of Claims 11 and 23 as being unpatentable over Okui et al., in view of Okazaki under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of Claims 12 and 24 as being unpatentable over Okui et al., in view of Giacosa under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed. Reconsideration of each of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant cannot agree that the Okui et al., patent teaches or even suggests the elements of independent Claims 1, 13 and 25 and any claims dependent thereupon, namely Claims 2-5, 9, 10, 14-17 and 22. Specifically, that patent does not teach the provisions of a housing component that both receives or houses the clutch and integrates therein a container area for dry sump lubrication. To the contrary, the Okui et al., patent merely shows the conventional engine arrangement with an oil reservoir 62 (Fig. 1) directed towards the front of the vehicle so as to extend from the engine's base to its upper side beyond the engine height to the air inlet opening 13. Nor does Okui

et al., disclose a clutch received in a housing component. To the contrary, this patent merely refers to, but does not show, a clutch and teaches that it should be associated with the flywheel (col. 3, lines 34-40).

Even with the benefit of the secondary references (i.e., Kameda et al., Okazaki and Giacosa), the resulting hypothetical combination would not teach the claimed invention either in terms of the structure or the method of its manufacture. Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

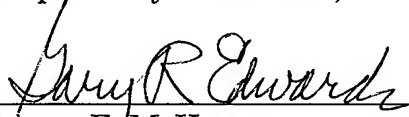
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.52975US).

November 8, 2006

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:pjc
dn2889340

Respectfully submitted,


James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

Gary R. Edwards
Registration No. 31,824